

forests are contiguous with Attapadi forests of Kerala thus facilitating the movement of animals further west. There has been reports of elephant movement along the Nilgiris eastern slope corridor between Moyar valley and the Pillur forests.

We have seen a Blackbuck and a doe in the Forest College & Research Institute (FCRI) campus at Mettupalayam in March 1988, recorded for the first time in this area. The animals had moved from the Moyar valley forests to the eastern slopes through the narrow corridor. We had previously seen blackbuck droppings along this corridor, but this was

the first time we had sighted the animal. We had also seen wild dogs in the same area. These sightings confirm our supposition that various animals use this corridor. The foothills area bordering the eastern slopes is heavily disturbed by human activities, and this corridor needs to be protected.

October 14, 1995

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protected area network in India. Vol. 1. Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun.

11. ALBINO LITTLE GREBE *TACHYBAPTUS RUFICOLLIS*

On 10 November, 1994 I saw in a small road side pond, three Little Grebes (*Tachybaptus ruficollis*), near village Khodri, Bilaspur District of M.P. Amongst them, there was an albino bird which could be distinguished from the others by its unusual coloration.

Occurrence of albinism in this species has not been recorded in available literature.

March 3, 1995

A.M.K. BHAROS

*27, MIG, Indravati Colony,
Raipur-492 001, M.P.*

12. WHITENECKED OR WOOLLY-NECKED STORK *CICONIA EPISCOPUS* (BODDAERT) NESTING ON CLIFFS

The Woolly-necked Stork *Ciconia episcopus* is reported to nest on tall trees (Ali and Ripley 1983, Brown *et al.* 1982, Roberts 1991, Hancock *et al.* 1992). Even in the latest authoritative HANDBOOK (del Hoyo *et al.* 1992) it is mentioned that *C. episcopus* is a "tree nester" (p. 459). However, on 20 October 1994 in the Chambal river near Kota in Rajasthan, we saw from a boat, at a distance of about 15 km, three active nests of Woolly-necked Stork on cliffs on both sides of the river. In two nests, one parent was present, while the third nest had both the parents. We also saw at least 16 more Woolly-necked Storks in groups of 4, 5 and 7, either flying or sitting on rocks in the river. These storks may also be nesting somewhere. A large number of Indian Longbilled

Vultures *Gyps indica*, few Egyptian Vultures *Neophron percnopterus* and a pair of Bonelli's Eagle *Hieraetus fasciatus* were also nesting on the cliffs along the river.

The Black Stork *Ciconia nigra* also shows two types of nesting sites: in most parts of the Palaearctic region, it nests on tall trees in forests, but in Spain and South Africa, it nests on cliffs (del Hoyo *et al.* 1992). Similarly, the European White Stork *Ciconia ciconia* and the Oriental White Stork *C. boyciana* (earlier considered as the same species) have dissimilar nesting habits. *C. ciconia* invariably nest on buildings, pylons, cliffs and man-made structures, while *C. boyciana* nest on trees. According to Brown *et al.* (1982), the behavioural difference between